



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information, Contact:

Tracy Miller, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Division of Disease Control
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2378
E-mail: tkmiller@nd.gov

UPDATE: Additional Testing Results Put Total Hepatitis C Cases at 28, Statewide Public Health Hotline Activated

On October 17, 2013, the North Dakota Department of Health received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that testing had been completed on blood samples from additional individuals in the hepatitis C outbreak investigation in Ward County. The CDC has confirmed that 21 additional cases are related to the seven cases that had previously been identified, bringing the total number of related cases to 28. In addition, as the investigation progresses more people will likely be tested.

According to Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist with the North Dakota Department of Health, the state is receiving assistance in this investigation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC personnel are in Minot to assist state investigators. As this investigation proceeds, the Department of Health will continue to provide updates to the public as to the course of the investigation.

For members of the public who may have additional questions about either this outbreak or hepatitis C in general, the Department of Health has activated their public health hotline. The hotline will be open from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays. The hotline can be contacted by calling toll-free 1-866-207-2880 during business hours.

Information will also be available on the Department of Health's Facebook page and on Twitter, with the hashtag #ndhepc.

For more information, contact Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378. Information about HCV can be found by visiting www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Hepatitis/.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndhealth or Twitter at <http://twitter.com/nddoh>.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.